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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. On 29 November 1993, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/25 by which, inter alia, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/48/475 and Add.1) and of the conclusions contained in his report on the meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations system and the General Secretariat of OAU, held at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 10 September 1993. By the same resolution, the Assembly called upon the United Nations to cooperate with OAU in the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; urged the United Nations and its Member States to continue to provide assistance, as appropriate, to OAU, should the latter decide to launch a peace-keeping operation; and urged the United Nations to continue to support OAU in its efforts to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts and peacefully to manage change in Africa. The Assembly also stressed that the economic, technical and development assistance provided to Africa by the organizations of the United Nations system must continue, and emphasized the need for those organizations to accord priority to Africa in that field; urged the Secretary-General and Member States, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and relevant agencies of the United Nations system to extend their support to the establishment of the African Economic Community and to assist in economic integration and cooperation; emphasized the urgency of the need to adopt appropriate measures to ensure the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), in particular in the areas of resource flows, debt relief and diversification of African economies; and called upon the Secretary-General to work in close coordination and cooperation with the Secretary-General of OAU, in particular on follow-up to review and evaluate the implementation of the New Agenda.

I. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

2. On 27 September 1993, Mr. Amre Moussa, Foreign Minister of Egypt and representative of the then Chairman of OAU, addressed the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In his address, the Foreign Minister reviewed political, economic and social developments in Africa. He discussed Africa's efforts to resolve conflicts in Africa, including Angola, Liberia, the Horn of Africa and South Africa.

II. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

3. Cooperation between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the member States of OAU continued during the period under review. The Department worked closely with OAU on issues related to the situation in Somalia. The Department coordinated and facilitated the implementation of the humanitarian assistance programmes in several African countries. In doing so, it maintained contacts with OAU especially by providing information on humanitarian needs of complex emergencies through United Nations inter-agency consolidated appeals on specific country programmes. OAU also received regular reports on the activities of the Department in relation to natural disasters as well as complex or major emergencies in Africa.

4. In the context of relief responses to sudden natural disasters, the Department coordinated system-wide actions in a number of African countries in 1994. Other specific responses by the Department included post-disaster damage and needs assessments by the United Nations Disaster Assistance Coordination (UNDAC) stand-by teams, the provision of emergency relief goods and the mobilization of resources to cover other immediate needs.

5. The Department also collaborated very closely with the secretariat of OAU in the development of the African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which was held in Yokohama, Japan in May 1994. This cooperation continued effectively in the preparation of the mid-term report for Africa on natural disaster reduction, as well as other activities leading to, and during, the World Conference, which was attended by 43 member States of OAU. The Department was invited to participate in the sixtieth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers which, inter alia, adopted a resolution endorsing the Yokohama Strategy and its plan of action for the reduction of natural disasters.

6. Technical cooperation projects in natural disaster mitigation are being implemented in several African countries. A subregional workshop was held in Burkina Faso in July 1994 for the member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

B. Centre for Human Rights

7. Cooperation with OAU, and in particular the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is an important element in the United Nations human rights programme. OAU enjoys observer status in the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It took an active part in the special session of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Rwanda, held on 24 and 25 May 1994.

8. The General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, established the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and an important part of the

High Commissioner's mandate is to enhance international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights. One of the first acts of the High Commissioner was to consult with OAU and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights about the situation of human rights in Rwanda. Prior to and during his field mission to Rwanda and neighbouring countries in May 1994, the High Commissioner maintained contact with the organization and the Commission and such contacts have continued.

9. Another area of cooperation is the ongoing collaboration between the Centre for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This collaboration is in two forms: the support of the Centre to the African Commission and the cooperation between the two for the joint realization of specific projects relating to advisory services and technical assistance.

10. In 1993, the Centre for Human Rights supported various activities of the African Commission and, in particular, has worked for the reinforcement of the Commission's office of information and documentation, as well as the organization of seminars and related activities. This assistance amounted to US$ 71,300.

11. The Centre for Human Rights has organized many seminars and training courses jointly with the Commission. In June 1994, the Commission was involved in the preparation and organization of a regional seminar on reporting obligations and preparation of reports by States Parties, for 14 francophone African countries. Finally, consultations are continuing between the Centre and the Commission for the funding of a seminar on the human rights of women.

12. Another activity which may be relevant to the development of cooperation between the United Nations and OAU concerns the implementation of article 45 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. That article stipulates, inter alia, that the Committee on the Rights of the Child may invite competent bodies, as it may consider appropriate, to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates.

13. Accordingly, the Secretariat, at the request of the Committee, invites the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to provide data and information relevant to the rights of the child, including information on technical assistance projects, that the Commission may collect in respect of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child from the African region whose reports are scheduled to be considered by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

14. While there are various areas in which cooperation should be initiated, there has never been any cooperation between these two organizations with respect to the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. This could now be initiated, in accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 48/91 of 20 December 1993 on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Another area could be matters relating to the right of development and issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights.

15. There are many other areas of the human rights programme in which a reinforcement of cooperation would benefit the activities of the United Nations

and OAU. Strengthening cooperation in these areas will be the focus of close attention in the coming period.

C. United Nations Children's Fund

16. Cooperation between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and OAU has been further strengthened over the past year as the two organizations, working jointly with other partners, followed up the World Summit for Children, the Tokyo International Conference on African Development and the International Conference on Assistance to African Children. These conferences helped provide a framework for continuing mobilization efforts for African children. The focus on Africa, moreover, is reflected in the staff, financial and other resources which UNICEF devotes to the continent, compared with other regions.

17. A major preoccupation of UNICEF is to give meaning and practical effect to the 1990 mandate of its Executive Board which was reaffirmed in 1994, to accord priority attention during the present decade to the African region in terms of financial, material and human resource allocation. In 1993/94, UNICEF increased emergency programmes on the continent. The close working relationship, strengthened in implementing the Consensus of Dakar which emanated from the International Conference on Assistance to African Children, is a further indication of the commitment of UNICEF to making Africa the region of highest priority.

18. On 16 June 1994, Heads of State, First Ladies, ministers of youth and sports and other high-ranking government officials participated in educational, cultural and sporting events commemorating the Day of the African Child. Many African countries used the occasion of the commemoration to discuss the national programmes of action, to put more emphasis on immunization campaigns, to speak on legislation for children's rights, and to call for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This year's commemoration was particularly important in the light of the implementation of the Consensus of Dakar. In donor countries, it offered an opportunity for advocacy, education and fund-raising. In Africa, the focus was on ways and means to achieve the mid-decade goals for children by 1995.

D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

19. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/25, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) pursued several activities in 1993 in support of the establishment of the African Economic Community. The UNCTAD secretariat participated in the deliberations of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee, as well as the second reading of the first set of draft protocols to be attached to the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

20. The UNCTAD secretariat continued to provide assistance to African participants in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. As regards trade expansion, the UNCTAD secretariat participated in the first Afro-Arab Trade Fair which was sponsored jointly by OAU, the League of Arab

States and the Government of Tunisia, which took place in Tunis in October 1993. UNCTAD participation encompassed (i) active involvement in a symposium with particular reference to trade promotion, mainly between African and Arab countries; (ii) provision of information and briefings to participants concerning UNCTAD activities; and (iii) the maintenance of a stand with information concerning trends in trade, growth and development.

21. The UNCTAD secretariat also participated in the following meetings aimed at bringing about better coordination and cooperation for development between African intergovernmental bodies, including OAU, and the United Nations system: Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa (May 1993); eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (May-June 1993); and the seventh Joint Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)/UNDP/African Intergovernmental Organizations/United Nations Agencies Meeting (April 1993).

22. The UNCTAD secretariat has participated in the activities of bodies dealing with UN-NADAF and provided substantive input to the drafting of a report setting out preliminary considerations for its implementation. At the invitation of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development, the UNCTAD secretariat has provided several analyses addressing problems in the area of commodities. Questions of external debt, resource flows, market access, terms of trade, trade financing and technological capacity-building, which continue to be of primary concern in the African context, call for increased attention in the follow-up process.

23. The UNCTAD secretariat provided the OAU secretariat with its studies on commodity price risk management and discussions were held on the subject during a visit to OAU headquarters. OAU has provided financial assistance to sponsor jointly with UNCTAD a seminar to help increase the awareness of senior policy makers in Africa of the advantages, problems and policy implications of increased use of risk management instruments by their commodity exporters. The UNCTAD secretariat is also seeking to secure funds for the seminar, which might take place late in 1994.

24. The UNCTAD secretariat has also discussed possible collaboration with OAU in the area of trade information, notably through its Trade Analysis and Information System (TRAINS). The diskettes of the system have been made available to OAU.

E. United Nations Development Programme

Ongoing programmes with OAU

25. Improvement of administrative and management capability. This is a US$ 3.3 million programme under which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been helping OAU to improve its organizational and management systems, including the provision of basic equipment. In 1994, about US$ 951,000 is expected to be disbursed to complete the programme, which started in 1987.

26. Establishment of the African Economic Community. Under this US$ 2.5 million programme, UNDP assisted OAU in drafting the Treaty and subsequent protocols of the African Economic Community. This year, the project ends with the disbursement of the last tranche of US$ 154,000. A new project to assist the organization in the implementation stage is expected to be approved shortly.

Proposed new programmes

27. Strengthening gender in development capacity in Africa. The key aim of the project is to strengthen the capacities of African regional institutions in areas of gender training, research and advocacy to become centres of excellence. In the case of OAU, UNDP is helping the organization to set up a women's unit together with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The unit will formulate a plan of action to integrate women's concerns systematically into the work of OAU; to involve OAU actively in international activities concerning women; and to identify key issues that require regional-level policy interventions (for example, the legal status of women, women and governance, and access to land). UNDP has provided US$ 800,000, and UNIFEM US$ 64,000, for the unit.

28. Support to OAU in the establishment of the African Economic Community. In addition to support given to OAU in the preparation of the Treaty and protocols, UNDP has recently allocated $1 million to support OAU in implementing the African Economic Community. Following the OAU/UNDP annual meeting, a project document is being finalized between the UNDP Liaison Office in Addis Ababa and OAU and is expected to be ready for signature shortly.

29. A further US$ 1 million has been earmarked for rationalizing and harmonizing intergovernmental organizations in the region within the framework of the African Economic Community. The programme will be executed by ECA.

F. United Nations Environment Programme

30. The developments, subsequent to last year's reporting, focused largely on follow-up in Africa to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, notably Agenda 21. This led to a much closer working relationship between OAU and UNEP, particularly in the following four areas:

(a) Assistance, together with UNDP, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and ECA, to the OAU secretariat and its member States in the negotiations for a regional annex to the international convention on desertification, which culminated in the preparation of the regional annex for Africa;

(b) Enabling the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), whose secretariat is located in the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, to tackle the challenges emanating from Agenda 21 and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(c) Support, through AMCEN, to OAU member countries in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(d) Implementation, throughout 1993, of the UNEP-funded project on institutional support to the Environment Division of OAU.

31. In other areas:

(a) The two organizations (together with ECA), during the period under review, have continued to provide secretariat services for AMCEN. Through this arrangement, OAU and UNEP are making significant contributions towards collective endeavours in addressing the environmental and socio-economic crises of the region. The collaborative efforts which are being undertaken through a variety of programmes are aimed at reversing and halting the degradation of the African environment. African institutions are being supported to undertake networking activities in major natural resources subject areas ranging from environmental monitoring, energy, water resources, biodiversity, education and training, science and technology, climatology, soils and fertilizers. Ecosystems management is being enhanced through joint OAU/UNEP action within the framework of AMCEN and in cooperation with African organizations. To this effect, the two organizations are supporting the work of five ecosystem committees.

(b) The two organizations, through their existing Cooperation Agreement, continue to assist OAU member States in the field of environmental management and efforts under way relate to international agreements on the environment, such as the Basel and Bamako Conventions; regional seas programmes, four of which are under implementation in the region; environmentally sound management of inland waters, such as the Zambezi River Basin Integrated Management Plan and the Lake Chad Basin Management; desertification control programmes, such as that of the Sudan-Sahelian region as well as those for eastern and southern Africa; environmental monitoring, through which assistance is being provided to subregional facilities and institutions such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC); capacity-building; strengthening of environmental legislation and institutions; and environmental education and training.

(c) The two organizations, during the reporting period, continued to work with intergovernmental subregional and regional organizations in Africa dealing with commitments or agreements on the environment especially those relating to deserts and arid lands, river and lake basins, seas, forests and woodlands, as well as island ecosystems.

G. United Nations Population Fund

32. With United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) assistance, the population and development project in the OAU Secretariat intensified its activities to place population issues at the centre of discussions by the member States. In this regard, the Population and Development Unit participated in the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, which was held in New York in April 1994 and was followed up with the inauguration of the African Population Commission in May 1994. The meeting

of the Commission was attended by representatives of the national population commissions or population planning units of the member States and adopted a draft resolution and a draft declaration on population and development in Africa for the consideration of the Council of Ministers as well as for the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments which met in Tunis in June 1994. With UNFPA assistance, OAU also conducted a seminar for the Ambassadors of member States who are based in Addis Ababa or at the subregional level, to coincide with special meetings of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of member States.

33. Other UNFPA-supported activities included the publication by OAU of a series of population profiles of the OAU member States, some technical papers as well as general public information on awareness-creation materials, all of which were given wide distribution within the political leadership of member States of OAU.

H. World Food Programme

34. During 1993, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued to accord high priority to OAU member States. It approved projects worth US$ 727 million in support of humanitarian and development activities in African countries.

35. The highest priority was again given to sub-Saharan African countries, which received nearly 50 per cent of total WFP assistance during the year. Much of this was channelled towards helping the victims of both natural disasters and armed conflicts. Humanitarian assistance provided by WFP to OAU member States exceeded US$ 600 million in 1993. The sum of US$ 26 million was provided to areas stricken by drought or crop failure. Resources amounting to US$ 347 million were provided to assist displaced persons, while the refugee operations accounted for US$ 239 million.

36. In addition to the high level of relief activities which the Programme was called upon to support in Africa in 1993, WFP maintained or increased its development assistance to the region. This assistance was channelled in accordance with priority sectors identified by OAU. Assistance to human resources development totalled US$ 56 million, and included school feeding at the primary and secondary levels, technical and vocational training and institutional feeding in social centres. Increased attention continued to be given to mitigating the negative effects of structural adjustment on the very poor. In addition, projects with a total value of US$ 59 million were approved in support of rural development activities throughout Africa.

37. In addition to the above, WFP supported OAU member States in the following areas:

(a) The Programme purchased food commodities worth US$ 73 million, an increase of 58 per cent over the previous year in the region, thus contributing to the development of intra-African trade;

(b) Various non-food items, including trucks, warehouses and kitchen equipment, were provided to the region in order to ensure efficient implementation of WFP-assisted projects;

(c) Additional resources were provided to least developed countries to reduce the burden of project implementation by meeting part of the costs of internal transport, storage and handling of commodities supplied by WFP;

(d) Over 2,241 counterpart staff from the region were trained in various fields, such as project identification and implementation, monitoring, reporting and food storage;

(e) About US$ 500,000 in additional funds were committed in 1993 for the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building in order to improve the quality of the projects in least developed countries in Africa.

I. Economic Commission for Africa

38. An important framework of cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and OAU is the Joint OAU/ECA/AfDB Secretariat. A major activity in which ECA participated in the Joint Secretariat was the provision of technical assistance to OAU in the preparation of draft protocols relating to various fields. Specifically, ECA has pursued the preparation of the protocols on industry, trade and customs, money and finance, and transport and communications. Another activity is the joint servicing of the OAU Permanent Steering Committee.

39. The Treaty has now been ratified by 35 member States and has come into force. It stipulates that the first stage shall involve the strengthening of existing regional economic communities within a period not exceeding five years. Accordingly, ECA participated in missions of the Joint Secretariat to regional economic communities to discuss and identify various activities that could be undertaken to strengthen their structures and programmes.

40. Also in the context of the Joint Secretariat, the ECA secretariat assisted OAU in organizing, in July 1993, a seminar on popularizing the African Economic Community. The seminar was attended by representatives of Governments, trade unions and the media. Subsequently, and jointly with OAU and AfDB, ECA participated in another seminar, on the implications of the South Commission report on Africa in September 1993.

41. Outside the Joint Secretariat, cooperation is also taking place at various sectoral levels. In this regard, ECA contributed to the establishment of the OAU African Population Commission. It also provided support to the African Group in the preparatory process of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994.

42. In the field of statistics, OAU participates actively in meetings of the Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) and its subcommittees. In addition, it participates regularly in the sessions of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers organized by ECA.

43. In the field of social development, ECA has collaborated with OAU in the following:

(a) Joint preparation of the African Common Position on the World Summit for Social Development;

(b) First meeting of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development, Addis Ababa, 17-21 January 1994;

(c) Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of Economic and Social Changes on the African Family, held in Addis Ababa, 13-17 December 1993;

(d) Joint organization and launching of the International Year of the Family and International Day of Families, Addis Ababa, 15 May 1994;

(e) Preparatory Meeting on Youth and Development, Cotonou, Benin, 19-20 August 1993;

(f) Ministerial Conference on "Culture, Education and Development", Cotonou, Benin, 23-27 August 1993;

(g) Implementation of the Consensus of Dakar pursuant to resolution CM/Res.1464 (LVIII) adopted at the fifty-eighth ordinary session of OAU on the International Conference on Assistance to African Children. The First Inter-agency Force on the Implementation of the Consensus of Dakar and the establishment of its follow-up mechanism was held under the auspices of OAU on 24 May 1994;

(h) Participation of ECA in the OAU Labour Commission's seventeenth ordinary session, Addis Ababa, 18-24 April 1994.

J. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

44. The close cooperation that has always existed between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) and the major regional socio-economic and political organizations in Africa, in particular ECA and OAU, has been further strengthened through joint activities related to the preparatory process of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), and the signing of a regional technical cooperation project between UNCHS and OAU.

45. First, at its fifty-eighth ordinary session held in Cairo from 21 to 26 June 1993, the OAU Council of Ministers adopted resolution CM/Res.1469 (LVIII) entitled "Resolution on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)". In that resolution, the Council, inter alia, called upon the organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Habitat II Conference, to provide all necessary assistance to African countries in their activities relating to the Conference. Accordingly, UNCHS, in collaboration with OAU and ECA, convened a meeting of African Ministers Responsible for Human Settlements in March 1994 at UNCHS headquarters in Nairobi in order to develop strategies and mechanisms which would enable African countries to participate effectively in the Conference. The meeting was preceded by an intergovernmental meeting of

African experts in the field of human settlements which prepared the groundwork for the ministerial meeting. The outcome of the meeting was a declaration by the Ministers with respect to an African Common Position for the Habitat II Conference.

46. Secondly, a regional technical cooperation project was signed by UNCHS and OAU with the objective of developing an effective technical/political interface which would facilitate the mobilization of support and resources for African regional programmes within the framework of the human settlements programme of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The project was also in keeping with paragraph 7 of the OAU resolution, in which, inter alia, the Council requested the Secretary-General of OAU, in collaboration with the Executive Director of UNCHS and the Executive Secretary of ECA, to assist African countries in developing a practical regional programme of support in the human settlements sector for the benefit particularly of refugees, displaced persons and victims of disasters in Africa. Phase I of the project was scheduled to commence in June 1994, to be followed three months later by Phase II.

47. With specific reference to ECA, consultative meetings have been held during the past year, jointly by UNCHS and UNEP with ECA, to review the current status of cooperation among the three organizations with the objective of developing concrete modalities for its enhancement. Specific areas for inter-agency cooperation have already been identified, covering management and coordination issues as well as cooperation at the level of programme and support units.

K. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

48. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to provide technical support to OAU within the framework of the development of a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) as an operational tool of the African Economic Community. In this context, FAO contributed to the organization of an inter-agency meeting on CAAP, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 March 1994, and an intergovernmental meeting of experts on CAAP, held in Addis Ababa from 28 March to 1 April 1994. Within the framework of CAAP and as a follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition, FAO also cooperated with OAU on the development of a strategy on underutilized food resources, as well as a regional nutrition strategy for Africa.

49. FAO collaboration with OAU was further evident in the preparations for the establishment of the African Economic Community. To this end, FAO contributed towards the strengthening of subregional economic communities and their integration programmes, by assisting in the conversion of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States into a Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). FAO also assisted in the development of a Common Agricultural Policy and Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa (CAPPESA) and a food security strategy for the subregion.

50. FAO has also provided technical assistance to OAU for the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC). Since August 1992, PANVAC has operated largely on funds provided by the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, although

some support has also come from UNDP and the European Community. A new three-year project entitled "Strengthening veterinary vaccine production and quality control in Africa", is being executed by FAO with Community funding.

51. Since 1985, FAO has supported the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC). The epidemiological capabilities of the PARC Coordination Unit were strengthened between 1986 and 1991 and, during this period, the PARC communication component was also developed by FAO. A joint FAO/OAU project on the provision of epidemiological expertise in disease situation analysis and refinement of eradication strategy has also been formulated and is awaiting the finalization of financial arrangements.

52. FAO activities in crop protection focus on the promotion and strengthening of technical cooperation among African countries in the monitoring and control of major pests, diseases and weeds of regional importance. Particular emphasis is placed on mobilizing and strengthening national plant protection and quarantine capabilities and supporting the preparation of national policies and plans. FAO continued to cooperate with the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council, an OAU organization. The Council participated in meetings of regional plant protection organizations.

53. In accordance with the decisions taken by the 106th session of the FAO Council in June 1994, FAO launched a special programme of the Emergency Prevention System (EMPRES), that will give particular emphasis to desert locust control, which is of grave concern to the northern, western and eastern regions of Africa. FAO will work in this respect with national locust control organizations and with regional locust control organizations and commissions. A plan of action is now being drafted to this end.

54. FAO cooperation with OAU is also reflected in the Coordinated Multi-donor Programme for Tick and Tick-borne Disease Control in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. OAU supports this FAO programme, which is now in its third phase. OAU participates in the programme's annual meetings at which progress is discussed, and has collaborated actively in the setting up of quality control standards for tick-borne diseases in Africa.

55. FAO is a serving member of the Executive Committee of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC), the OAU/IBAR (Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources) body with responsibility for convening the biennial international meeting and for addressing technical aspects of control. The twenty-second meeting was held in Kampala from 25 to 29 October 1993, with the active participation of FAO. OAU/IBAR is invited to attend FAO statutory meetings relating to the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development, the most recent of these being the meeting of the regional liaison officers (East Africa) held in Nairobi in 1993.

L. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

56. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) welcomes the new OAU mechanism for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa, adopted at the Cairo Summit in June 1993, and has offered to assist in its implementation.

57. UNESCO is deeply involved in implementing, through its different sectors, activities in support of the establishment of a culture of peace and of confidence-building in Africa, in the framework of the Agenda for Peace. The Director-General recently approved a project entitled "Democratic peace building and conflict resolution in Africa", which includes a number of activities, among which are international conferences, symposia, publications on conflict resolutions for peace and the constitution of a list of experts and institutions on the subject that could be made available to OAU.

58. The UNESCO Priority Africa programme is conceived on the basis of regional integration, as recommended by the Abuja Treaty. In September 1993, UNESCO submitted to the Secretary-General of OAU substantive elements for the elaboration of the terms of reference for the protocol on education and training.

59. In addition, during the meeting between the Director-General and the OAU delegation participating in the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Paris from 25 October to 16 November 1993, cooperation between the two organizations was envisaged in the following areas:

(a) Follow-up to the OAU Conference of Ministers of Education and Culture (Cotonou, Benin, 23-27 August 1993);

(b) OAU will establish an African Commission on Culture and Development to prepare the contribution of Africa to the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development;

(c) OAU will submit to UNESCO for financing a project entitled "Projet chlorophylle: plante et vie".

60. UNESCO was also represented at the 1994 OAU Ministerial and Summit meetings in Tunis and will pursue its cooperation with OAU and its institutes and centres in all areas of common concern.

M. World Health Organization

61. To enhance regional cooperation, the World Health Organization (WHO) continued to pursue a series of priorities for health and development of particular relevance to the African continent. Activities included the launching of a new regional initiative on water supply and sanitation (Africa 2000) and continued support to national and intercountry programmes on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis, nutrition, family planning and emergency and humanitarian

needs. Surveillance and control of communicable diseases among refugees and displaced persons were intensified. The need for fresh approaches to the resolution of health and socio-economic development problems was emphasized by the WHO Regional Committees for Africa.

62. WHO continued to work with OAU on the formulation and promotion of a health protocol for the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community. In addition, it continued to collaborate with OAU on most of the above priorities for health and development, including follow-up to the World Declaration for the Control of Malaria (October 1992) and, through the African Regional Nutrition Strategy for 1993-2003 in collaboration with FAO and UNICEF, the International Conference on Nutrition (December 1992). In response to a request from OAU, WHO also advised OAU on its health information services and its medical clinic. In addition, the collaboration of WHO and FAO with the OAU International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control was strengthened.

63. Following the endorsement of the six-point agenda for action on AIDS in Africa through the Dakar Declaration made by the Twenty-eighth Assembly of OAU Heads of State and Government in June 1992, the Twenty-ninth Assembly held in Cairo in June 1993 approved the plan prepared by OAU in collaboration with WHO for the implementation of the agenda. In June 1994, the OAU Heads of State and Government took further decisive steps in adopting a resolution and a declaration on AIDS and the Child in Africa at their Assembly in Tunis. The Director-General of WHO attended this summit and made a statement on the subject.

64. At several organizational levels, WHO made efforts to strengthen further the coordination of its regional programmes in Africa and their linkages with other organizations, including OAU, ECA, the AfDB, the Islamic Development Bank, UNICEF, FAO and the World Bank.

65. In support of UN-NADAF, WHO worked with 14 African countries on the initiative for intensified WHO cooperation, which seeks to build national capacities in health policy development and to promote partnerships with other development agencies, particularly for resource mobilization purposes. In support of socio-economic development, WHO continued to expand its collaboration with the AfDB on country-specific activities and on technical subjects, including health and population policies, disease control and essential drugs. WHO, together with the World Bank and other organizations, also supported countries in coping with the health-related implications of the FrancCFA (Communauté financière Africaine) evaluation in January 1994, especially in the area of essential drugs.

66. In accordance with standing practice, OAU was also invited to attend the Executive Board meeting of WHO and the World Health Assembly in 1993 and 1994.

N. International Monetary Fund

67. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued to cooperate with OAU through its member States that are also Fund members and with the United Nations through contacts between the Director of the Fund's Office at the United

Nations, who is also the Special Representative of the Fund at the United Nations, and the OAU Steering Committee in relation to Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery. The main vehicles for cooperation include financial assistance, external debt and aid coordination, policy advice, surveillance and technical assistance.

68. The Fund continued to provide its own financial resources under its various facilities, but especially under the Structural Adjustment Facility/Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF/ESAF), to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes. As at the end of June 1994, there were 24 programmes in place in various OAU member countries, including 8 stand-by arrangements; 2 arrangements under the extended Fund facility; and 14 arrangements under SAF and ESAF; in addition, there is one rights accumulation programme in place. Total Fund credit and loans outstanding to OAU member countries amounted to SDR 5.87 billion at the end of 1993. The Fund, in its catalytic role, also continued to mobilize additional resources for the African countries, in the context of multilateral conferences on aid coordination (for example, consultative group meetings and UNDP-sponsored round-table discussions), as well as debt rescheduling.

69. The Fund exercised its policy advice and surveillance functions through its regular consultations with OAU member States and by helping those countries design adjustment programmes that could be supported by the Fund; it also continued to actively collaborate with subregional organizations in Africa. The Fund also continued to provide extensive technical assistance for the effective management of policy reforms in many areas, including public finance, monetary policy, debt management and exchange rate management, as well as in the design of social safety nets. It also offered training, at both headquarters and in the field, in financial analysis, public finance and balance of payments.

O. International Telecommunication Union

70. It has been acknowledged that African economic integration would have to be preceded by a reliable, readily available telecommunication network as part of a wider communication and transport strategy for the continent. It is for this reason that ITU, in cooperation with OAU and other organizations, initiated, nearly two decades ago, the Pan-African Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL) project designed to link African cities with a modern wide-capacity telecommunication network.

71. In order to enhance PANAFTEL, the Regional African Satellite Communication System for the Development of Africa (RASCOM) project was subsequently launched, intended largely to collect traffic from rural and isolated areas of the continent using a mix of satellite and terrestrial telecommunication technologies. This project has now been completed and the RASCOM organization, located in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, has been created by African Governments.

72. Apart from these two major projects, ITU has continued to cooperate with OAU in various activities, including UN-NADAF and through the provision of a wide range of assistance to African countries either directly or through regional and subregional seminars and workshops. ITU participates regularly in

the OAU Summit meetings and in the expert/ministerial meetings that precede the Summit.

73. The increased ITU regional presence in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Dakar, Harare and Yaounde now brings the ITU services closer to African countries. The Office in Addis Ababa, in particular, facilitates contact between the two organizations on a continuous basis.

P. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

74. As in the past, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) continued to cooperate with OAU and ECA in supporting the efforts of the African countries and intergovernmental organizations in the formulation and implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa. In this regard, the 11th session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry was organized jointly by OAU, ECA and UNIDO and held in Mauritius in June 1993. At that Conference, the status of industry in Africa was assessed and guidelines for industrialization in Africa, including the impact of developments in the world economy, were given. The Conference also adopted the Mauritius Declaration which provided important guidelines for industrialization strategies and policies emphasizing, in particular, the need for competitiveness and private sector development. The Conference also prepared the Africa Common Position for the Fifth General Conference of UNIDO, which contributed to the restructuring of UNIDO and the prioritization of its objectives and services.

75. On environment and energy, UNIDO participated in the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 27 November 1993, which was organized jointly by OAU, ECA and UNEP. At that Conference, UNIDO's Agenda for a "Better World with Clean Industry", particularly its programme for ecologically sustainable industrial development, was presented to the Ministers. As a follow-up to that Conference, UNIDO will cooperate with OAU and the other two United Nations agencies, ECA and UNEP, including the AMCEN Secretariat, to initiate a programme responding to the issues delineated in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

76. UNIDO prepared and presented one of the background papers entitled "Utilization of sorghum in malt and beer processing" to the Regional Symposium on Progress in the Processing and Utilization of Sorghum and Related Cereals, held in Ouagadougou in November 1993. The Symposium was organized by the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission.

77. Within the framework of the African Economic Community, industry has a decisive role to play in terms of expanding production structures and intra-African trade to meet regional needs. In this regard, UNIDO continues to cooperate with OAU in identifying areas of concentration for possible assistance to its member States and the intergovernmental organizations that would require UNIDO services.

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Q. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

78. With a background of increasing conflict and crises world wide, which either produce refugee flows or inhibit the repatriation of refugees, the need for vigorous involvement by regional institutions in conflict resolution is strongly indicated. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is committed in Africa to enhancing the capacity of OAU, as a regional institution, to: (a) promote the early resolution of conflicts; (b) create conditions for the sustainable repatriation of refugees; and (c) outline and address the interwoven economic, political and social problems underlying refugee flows.

79. Advantage will be taken of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and the twentieth year since its entry into force, to examine these and other issues more closely. As one of the activities to commemorate these anniversaries, the OAU General Secretariat and UNHCR jointly organized a symposium on African refugee issues, problems and challenges, which was held in Addis Ababa from 5 to 7 September 1994. The symposium was attended by representatives of the member States of OAU, the member States of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme, relevant United Nations organizations, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the humanitarian and human rights fields, as well as scholars from the academic world. Under the joint chairmanship of the Secretary-General of OAU and the High Commissioner, the symposium reviewed the contribution that the OAU Convention had made to refugee protection and solutions in Africa and examined ways for its more effective implementation. It also considered and made appropriate recommendations on the root causes of refugee crises and other forced population displacements in Africa; the protection and provision of assistance to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, as well as the promotion of comprehensive and effective solutions at the national, regional and international levels.

80. The relationship of UNHCR with OAU is expected to continue to develop on the basis of a long-standing and solid history of cooperation. In addition to attending and participating in the annual sessions of their respective executive bodies, the two organizations maintain regular consultations. UNHCR also maintains close liaison with OAU through its regional liaison office in Addis Ababa.

81. Missions of the OAU Commission of 15 on refugee matters are serviced and assisted by UNHCR and have UNHCR participation. In 1994, the Commission reviewed refugee situations in all subregions of Africa to promote a more effective humanitarian response to and solutions for the major refugee caseloads in the regions. In addition, two OAU missions were fielded to the main countries affected by the Liberian and Togolese refugee crisis in the first half of 1994. Regular consultations were held between the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General of OAU on all aspects of refugee crises in Burundi and Rwanda, either directly or through their respective special representatives in the area.

82. UNHCR and OAU have jointly underlined the need to develop local non-governmental organization capacity to deal with refugee situations and the larger problem of displaced persons. This was a prominent theme of the UNHCR/NGO consultation (PARINAC), and calls to develop such local capacity formed part of the final Plan of Action adopted at the PARINAC Global Conference held in Oslo in June 1994. UNHCR will seek to implement this joint decision by identifying new, local non-governmental organization partners and intensifying existing cooperation with African non-governmental organizations.

III. COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS

A. International Civil Aviation Organization

83. OAU continues to be invited to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) meetings within its sphere of interest, including sessions of the Assembly of ICAO.

84. ICAO has provided information, particularly on the implementation of ICAO Regional Air Navigation Plans by African countries, for the study of air transport in Africa which is being undertaken by Egypt in accordance with the decision of OAU at its 1993 Summit meeting.

85. ICAO continues to support the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and provides information to ECA following the adoption of UN-NADAF. It also continues to play a very active role in the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, contributing to the work of the Resources Mobilization Committee which has prepared the list of projects for the Decade.

86. ICAO continues to maintain a close and continuous working relationship with the African Civil Aviation Commission and provides the Commission with expert advice and secretariat assistance upon request. Documents and studies of interest to the African region are provided to OAU on a regular basis to allow it to maintain basic documentation on civil aviation matters. ICAO also works in close cooperation with subregional organizations in Africa on the development of international civil aviation, notably the Southern African Development Community, the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States and the Economic Communities for Central African and Western African States.

B. International Maritime Organization

87. Further to the developments and activities reported in 1993, the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for Member States of OAU is particularly oriented towards: implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment adopted by the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa in June 1993 (which also addresses safety, port and legal issues); the development and management of port reception facilities; the establishment of regional capacity for marine pollution emergency response; the specialized training of seafarers and shore-based maritime personnel; the building up or upgrading of

national capabilities for maritime safety, marine environment protection and rehabilitation, as well as the training of seafarers and shore-based maritime personnel; the development of further region-specific policies, strategies and action plans for technical cooperation; the development of capabilities for port State control and training of ship inspectors in west and central Africa, in eastern and southern Africa and in the eastern and southern Mediterranean; and the development and harmonization of maritime legislation.

88. In addition to the activities and projects listed below, it is expected that IMO assistance will generate further projects for the development of the above subregional port State control agreements; the provision of port reception facilities; the establishment of emergency response capabilities; and additional national projects.

89. IMO current and planned projects and activities in Africa include a regional workshop on the integration of international maritime law into national legislation; a regional workshop on handling dangerous goods; a Mediterranean seminar on maritime search and rescue; assessment, prevention and control of marine pollution from oil spills in west and central Africa; and development of maritime safety administration in countries of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC).

C. Universal Postal Union

90. Cooperation between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) continues in the form of activities, mainly in the area of technical assistance, carried out jointly by UPU and the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), a specialized agency of OAU. Under the cooperation agreement concluded in that regard, UPU and PAPU have been mandated to coordinate their programmes and carry out joint technical assistance activities, co-financed by the parties concerned. During the period June 1993 to June 1994, a joint UPU/PAPU project was carried out, in the form of a workshop on cost accounting and postal rates for English-speaking African countries.

91. In addition, UPU has provided substantial technical assistance to States members of PAPU for the following activities, funded from UPU resources and carried out within the framework of UNDP projects: expert/consultant missions involving, inter alia, operational activities, studies and the organization of services; individual and group training fellowships; and the provision of postal equipment.

92. The presence in the field of two Regional Advisors from UPU has provided continuing support for the postal administrations in English-, French-, Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking African countries.

93. In its capacity as a Restricted Union as defined in article 8 of the Constitution of UPU, PAPU endorses the application of decisions taken by UPU bodies to its member States.

94. In its capacity as leader of the subsectoral working group for postal services, UPU has participated actively in the work of the Second Transport and

Communications Decade in Africa, inter alia, in efforts to find financing for proposed postal projects. Such projects include one entitled "Establishment of regional and subregional transit centres" which was financed as a feasibility study by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

95. UPU is helping to implement the multi-annual programme (1993-1996) of PAPU, in particular through group training activities. In addition, UPU is continuing to cooperate with OAU and PAPU to achieve the objectives set in the Treaty of Abuja and spelt out, as far as the postal sector is concerned, in the Protocol on transport and communication.

D. World Meteorological Organization

96. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and OAU signed an official Cooperation Agreement approved by their respective governing bodies in 1976. In this respect, the collaboration between the secretariats had been largely reflected through visits to the secretariats and mutual participation in the meetings of the statutory bodies of the Organization.

97. Notwithstanding the drastic decline in UNDP funding since 1993, the implementation of WMO activities in Africa continued with regard to the improvement of national and regional meteorological and hydrological services and institutions. In 1994, WMO has been implementing some 22 national and regional projects funded by UNDP and other donors as well as from the regular budget of the Organization. The total assistance to the African countries in 1993 will be approximately US$7 million. These programmes are aimed at contributing to the priority areas of the African countries mainly in the sectors of food and agriculture, the environment, water, human resources development, science and technology. The major programmes under implementation in 1994 are the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), established in Niamey, Niger, the AGRHYMET programme for CILSS countries and the drought monitoring centres for eastern and southern Africa established in Nairobi and Harare. The FINNIDA/SATCC/WMO Meteorology Programme for the SADC countries ended in December 1993. Support continues to be provided to the Hydrological Forecasting System for the River Niger Basin (HYDRONIGER) and to the regional meteorological training centres, regional meteorological specialized centres and the Tropical Cyclone Programme for the South West Indian Ocean countries.

98. Within the framework of AMCEN, WMO is participating in the Inter-agency Working Group of AMCEN and in the work of the committees and networks established by AMCEN. WMO is also cooperating with UNEP in its Desertification Programme for Africa through its World Climate Programme activities.

99. In the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, WMO is collaborating closely with OAU in the assessment and development of strategies for African countries involved in aspects of disaster reduction related to weather and climate, such as tropical cyclones, floods, droughts and storms surges.

100. WMO has been cooperating with OAU and ECA in the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In this respect, it will be noted that guidelines have been prepared and distributed to member States on the follow-up to the Conference, with emphasis on the roles of the national meteorological and hydrological services in developing national Agenda 21s and relevant plans for follow-up activities.

101. WMO has been assisting member States in preparing for the negotiations on the convention to combat desertification. Another important activity was the follow-up of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme which was jointly sponsored by various United Nations agencies and attended by several intergovernmental organizations, including OAU, and several African member States.

102. WMO has also been working in close cooperation with African economic groupings in the development and implementation of regional common programmes in meteorology, hydrology and the environment. Cooperation agreements are expected to be signed in due course between WMO and some of those subgroupings.

E. World Intellectual Property Organization

103. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) attended the fifty-eighth session of the Council of Ministers and the twenty-ninth Conference of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held in Cairo in June 1993. On that occasion, a WIPO-OAU Medal Award Ceremony was held and presided over by His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, as the current Chairman of OAU.

104. In October 1993, an OAU official visited WIPO headquarters in Geneva and discussed with senior WIPO officials ways of strengthening cooperation between WIPO and OAU. In January 1994, two WIPO officials visited OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa for discussions with OAU officials, including the Secretary-General. The discussions centred on, inter alia, an invitation to the Director-General of WIPO to address the OAU Council of Ministers. WIPO also attended the fifty-ninth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa in February 1994.

105. In June 1994, the Director-General of WIPO attended the sixtieth session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Tunis. He addressed the Council, and highlighted the state of relations between WIPO and OAU. He also had discussions with the Secretary-General of OAU on ways and means of strengthening cooperation between the two organizations.